THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Government in the Ministry of Human Resource Development has agreed in principle to a proposal for restoration of Central University status of the University of Allahabad and conversion of the Manipur University into a Central University. It is, however, not possible to indicate a definite time frame for introduction of the legislative proposals on the subject in the Parliament as the necessary procedural formalities in this regard are yet to be completed.

Opening of Navodaya/Kendriya Vidyalayas in Rajasthan and Punjab

379. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to open more Navodaya and Kendriya Vidyalayas in Rajasthan and Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how Government intend to raise the standard of education of the children living in villages and small towns all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Proposals to open new Kendriya Vidyalayas and Novodaya Vidyalayas in the country are under consideration.

Primary Education Programme

380. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the districts especially in Chhattisgarh where Government have introduced the District Primary Education Programme;

(b) whether Government propose to expand this programme in other poor and educationally backward districts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) A list containing the name of the districts in which District Primary Education Programme